EXTRA

The Hamilton Spectator

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VOLUME 23 HAMILTON AND KIRKLAND COLLEGES, CLINTON, NEW YORK MAY 5, 1970 NUMBER 26

Hill Students Leave Classes to Plan Against War

Faculty Respond to Boycott; Historic Statement Possible

BY HOWARD PARISER

Faculty response to the Hamilton ban of classes has been varied, but it is apparent that many faculty members wholeheartedly support the students in their attempt to show solidarity against the war.

After last night's meeting in the Chapel, Hamilton faculty members Robert Simon, James Ring, Philip Pearle, Harvey Sutter, and Associate Dean Hadley S. DePuy, in an informal conversation with students, expressed their personal disgust at President Nixon's recent expansion into Cambodia and the general escalation of the Indo-China War.

DePuy requested a meeting with the Strike Committee at 9 this morning to discuss with them possibilities of faculty support for their moves. The Hamilton faculty will meet this afternoon and will discuss the strike.

Dean DePuy also expressed his admiration at the large and sincere response the students of both college displayed to the issues.

Faculty response to the strike is unpredictable. If, however, the faculty does adopt a position on the issues founding the strike, it will be the first time the Hamilton faculty has founded a group statement on a political issue.

I think that to leave one's own country . . . is mean, worse than mean – silly. Why go . . . when one may be of great service to humanity here? Now especially. There's a perfect mass of fruitful activity open to us.

–Dostoyevsky

BY STEVE KINNEY
and HAL HIGBY

An estimated 800 people crowded into the Hamilton Chapel last night to vote almost unanimously to boycott classes today in protest of American expansion in the war in Southeast Asia.

Students from Hamilton and Kirkland Colleges as well as faculty and administration members from Hamilton crowded the pews, sat in the aisles, and stood wherever possible to vote on the proposals of the Hamilton Strike Referendum.

The referendum committee, which arose from a meeting held earlier yesterday evening in McEwen Hall, opened the meeting by requesting that all press from off the Hill leave the Chapel. Committee member Ted Leinwand, '73, announced that press releases would be issued following the meeting.

Lenny Green, '71, another member of the steering committee, took the podium to move that classes be suspended today. In discussion, the motion was clarified to be a student boycott of classes, since the faculty would not be voting on the issue until this afternoon. Following a brief discussion period, the motion was passed by an overwhelming and enthusiastic majority.

Among the supporting statements was a brief one by Student Senate President Steve Baker, '71. He urged all Hamilton students to support the motion, "on behalf of the Student Senate."

Mark Kahn, '70, steering committee member, indicated the necessity for talks to be held during the boycott today to discuss the direction and purpose of the action. He also suggested discussion of steps to be taken after today's boycott.

Kahn summed up his remarks by moving that there be a meeting at the Chapel tonight at 10 to discuss the proposals formulated during the day. After brief discussion this motion, too, was carried by a large margin.

Before the committee's proposals were presented Bob Phillips, '71, press representative for the Hamilton Strike Referendum, gave a resume of international and national events pertinent to the issue at hand. He covered the late actions in Vietnam and Cambodia, and mentioned the violence at Kent State University in Ohio, where four students were reportedly killed in a clash with National Guardsmen, and at the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland.

The news of support for recent student actions by the presidents of Columbia and Notre Dame Universities drew jubilant cheers from the audience. Phillips then noted that the Nixon Administration claimed overwhelming support for the President's actions in letters and telegrams received at the White House. The audience greeted this report with scornful boos and hisses.

Phillips then reported the recent action at Colgate University, in which 1,000 members of the Colgate community signed a petition directed to Secretary of State William P. Rogers, Colgate '34. Rogers, a member of the Colgate University Board of Trustees, was requested to resign either from the Board of Trustees or from his Cabinet post. The petition stated that if he did not respond to the demand by coming to Colgate by Wednesday, the students would go to Washington Thursday and "see him in his office."

Others speaking for the committee were Bruce Nichols '70 and temporary committee chairman Ken Seidberg '70. Leinwand closed the meeting with a final request for participation in today's activities and attendance at tonight's meeting in the Chapel.

Kirkland Students Propose Action; Assembly Meeting to Decide Policy

BY BARBARA STEIN

By an unofficial straw vote, the Kirkland Assembly passed a proposal supporting "a program of community action and concern in regard to the present crisis in foreign and domestic policy in the United States beginning May 4."

Though no definite specifications were included in the proposal, the proposal represented implied support of a voluntary boycott of classes the following day and a program of workshops and speeches concerning America's foreign policy in Eastern Asia.

The Assembly could not take an official vote on the proposal, since according to Kirkland's consitution no proposal can be both introduced and voted on in the same meeting.

Carol Conover '72 presented the proposal to the community after the scheduled assembly meeting last night had convened into an open community discussion. Conover also outlined plans for the following day's activities. Students were asked to boycott classes for the day and attend workshops.

The workshops both provided information on constructive action against America's foreign policy, and aided students in formulating further plans for immediate action on their own campus. She also urged students to attend a 3:00 P.M. rally in Clinton, stressing the importance of addressing others outside of our own academic community, "If we run around and pat each other on the back we're not going to get anywhere."

President Samuel Babbitt expressed his concurrence with the community's actions, and urged all members of the community to seriously consider, ". . . how can we continue both our own programs and our personal lives so that they can be meaningful" during this present crisis. Though he admitted to the frustration we all must feel because of the "incredible difficulty of making our voice heard effectively," he warned against allowing "emotion getting control." He stressed, "We think, then we go do, but in that order."

The Kirkland Community plans on holding another meeting tonight at 7:00 P.M. in McEwen Hall to discuss further plans. Conover stressed at the Monday evening meeting, "What we decide will be decided tomorrow."

5-Member Steering Committee Mobilizes Students in 4 Hours

BY JOHN ROWE
and PAUL HAGERMAN

Out of the chaos of the 7:00 meeting at McEwen Hall last evening, a five-man committee co-ordinated a series of cohesive proposals which were presented to the student body and approved late last night in the chapel.

Chris Bugbee '69 suggested that this Strike Referendum Committee of five be elected to co-ordinate and activate the ideas of the larger group.

Chosen were Acting Chairman Kenneth Seidberg '70, Mark Kahn '70, Bruce Nichols '70, Leonard Green '71 and Ted Lienwand '73. The SRC was charged with representing and carrying out the wishes of the student body at large.

The SRC discussed the nature of the possible boycott. It was decided that the protest should, in the beginning, center around the escalation of the Vietnam war into Cambodia.

The possibility of expanding the protest to include other issues was left open for consideration of the student body at future re-evaluation meetings.

The SRC also considered the possibility of co-ordinating Hamilton protest activities with those of Kirkland. It was decided , however, that both colleges should make plans independent of one another. Throughout the evening it seemed obvious that the Hamilton faculty would be far less responsive to the idea of a student boycott than did the Kirkland faculty and that the Hamilton students would therefore encounter different problems.

The SRC decided to present several alternatives to the student body.

First, students could either boycott or continue classes as usual. It was noted that a decision to boycott classes would still leave the question of the boycott's duration open.

The SRC quoted three possibilities for duration: 1) a one day boycott today, ending with a re-evaluation of the present position and future action this evening; 2) a three day boycott lasting through Thursday and ending in a similar re-evaluation; and 3) a boycott of indefinite duration with continual re-evaluation.

The SRC met and discussed the proposals. It then proposed a one day boycott of classes, with an evaluation at the end of the day to decide upon further action.

Early Student Meeting Calls For Mass Action

BY WALTER JAFFE

Almost three hundred people attended a meeting Monday night at 7:30 in the McEwen Dining Hall to discuss the possibilities of a Hamilton student strike.

Approximately ninety-percent of the students present came from the Hamilton student body.

Stu Kestenbaum '73, who headed the meeting, described a three-fold purpose for a student demonstration: to protest against United States involvement in Indochina and specifically the invasion of Cambodia; to respond to the Bobby Seale trial in New Haven; and to continue the goals of the ecological and women's liberation movements.

Kestenbaum's proposals were moderate along typical Hamilton lines.

A rally of Hamilton and Kirkland students and Clinton residents was to take place on the Clinton Green today at 3:00 with Kirkland President Samuel F. Babbitt as key speaker.

Kestenbaum further suggested a boycott of classes on Wednesday afternoon in the same manner as the October Moratorium.

His third suggestion was to sponsor a debate between Congressman Alexander W. Pirnie, a member of the House Arms Service Committee, and Joseph Simmons, his opponent in his bid for reelection this year. Pirnie is considered a "hawk" on Vietnam, while Simmons is a peace candidate.

Students voiced varied opinions at the meeting, though the general angry sentiment was that Hamilton should act immediately – colleges were already striking around the country while Hamilton was enjoying its houseparties.

A conflict arose over whether to have a formal meeting before the scheduled Tuesday afternoon faculty meeting. Proponants for allowing the faculty to vote on any proposition before the students met were at first shouted down and then overwhelmingly defeated by a floor vote.

Several students voiced support of a continued strike lasting through the remaining college year, as has been done at Princeton University.

Students finally agreed upon a motion to set up workshops immediately to draw up plans and resolutions for the proposed strike. Before dismissing themselves, the students present called for a meeting of the entire Hamilton Student Body at 11:00 yesterday evening in the Chapel.

Editorials

Not in Haste

At first glance the students' decision last night to boycott classes today appears to be a hasty one. That is not entirely the case.

That the first formal meeting to discuss strike plans was held at seven yesterday evening does not exclude the previous engagement in lucid and sincere thought. In fact this is exactly what happened.

Hamilton students had been thinking about Cambodia for four days. The alarm and concern among students was evident Thursday evening after President Nixon's television address.

Why did students not decide on formal action before last night? Hamilton students have never had to make such a decision. To claim that a boycott of classes could only be justified had Hamilton and Kirkland students engendered this movement is naive. Such a movement could not spring from a college that has officially chosen to remain politically uncommitted.

To demand that Hamilton students should have instigated the national strike is to demand an extraordinary response from students at a college that, in light of the actions of its peers, acts in an extraordinary way by refusing to support an official political position.

Call to Strike

The following statement was drafted over the weekend in New York by an emergency meeting of college and university newspaper editors. Editors of the following colleges and universities originally approved the statement: Brown, Cornell, Columbia, Dartmouth, Harvard, University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, Haverford, Sarah Lawrence, Bryn Mawr, and Rutgers.

President Nixon's unwarrented, and illegitimate decision to send American combat forces into Cambodia and to resume the bombing of North Vietnam demands militant, immediate, and continued opposition from all Americans.

Through his unilateral executive move, the President has placed our country in a state of emergency. He has ignored the constitutional perogatives of Congress, and has revealed the sham of his policy of Vietnamization, a policy which, through a tortorous process of inner logic demands that we escalate the war in order to enable American troops to withdraw. He has demonstrated that American foreign policy still dictates the necessity to sacrifice American lives, in ravishing a dependent country, and squander our resources and energies.

The President has tragically misgaged the mood of the country. The Anti-war movement which has marched and protested for years a main effort to reverse the United States role in Southeast Asia, has finally resurfaced in new and larger numbers. Nixon's lies now finally exposed, the immorality and hypocrisy of our government's actions have been revealed for all to see.

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The need for action has never been so great or so urgent. We therefore call for the entire academic community in the country to engage in the nationwide university strike. We must cease business as usual in order to allow universities to be in and to contribute to the collective strike of protest of the American war.

We do not call for a strike by students against the university, but a strike by the entire university — faculty, students and administrators alike.

The reasons for such a strike are manifold. First, it is a dramatic symbol of our opposition to a corrupt and immoral war. It demonstrates clearly our priorities, and the significance of classes and examinations fail before the greater problems outside the classroom. Moreover, it recognizes the fact that, in a society so permeated with inequality, immorality, and destruction, a classroom education becomes a hollow meaningless experience.

But the necessity for a strike extends even far beyond these reasons. A strike is necessary to free the academic community from activities of secondary importance and to open it up to the primary task of building up opposition to the war. It is necessary to permit the academic community to first solidify its own position and then to act immediately to extend its opposition beyond the campus.

We ask the entire academic community to use this opportunity to go to the people, and to bring home to the entire nation the meaning of the President's action. A massive, unprecedented display of dissent is required.

We urge that this strike be directed to bringing about the following changes:

The passage of an ammendment to the Senate Military Appropriations Bill to deny all aid for our military and political adventures in Southeast Asia.

The mobilization of political support for an anti war candidate in the upcoming primary in the June election.

The end of political repressionism, in particular the government's systematic attempt to eliminate the Black Panther Party and other political dissidents.

A realocation of American resources from military involvement abroad to domestic problems, in particular, the problems of our beleagered cities.

And the building of support for a massive demonstration in Washington on May 9 to bring to the nation's capital, in unprecedented numbers, our opposition.

The stage has been set, the issues clearly drawn, the need is apparent. It is now time to act.

Just the Beginning

BY HENRY GHOLZ

The National Strike began at New Haven last Saturday when students from college campuses joined to hear concerned citizens in peaceful protest against the injustice being done to Bobby Seale, National Chairman of the Black Panther Party, and other "political prisoners" on trial or presently under arrest across the nation.

Following President Nixon's speech to the nation Thursday night clarifying his order to send troops into Cambodia the base of the demonstration became three-fold: 1) to end the oppression in Southeast Asia; 2) to end the alliance between colleges and the Pentagon, and to remove ROTC from all campuses; and 3) to free Bobby Seale and the rest of the "political prisoners." On Friday, disruptions had broken out at Kent State University, Princeton, and many other schools, as a reaction to the speech.

College Presidents' Appeal

Editor's Note:

The following letter, drafted by James Hester, President of New York University, and signed by 34 college presidents, has been sent to President Richard Milhaus Nixon.

Dear Mr. President:

The American invasion of Cambodia and the renewed bombing of North Vietnam have caused extraordinarily severe and widespread apprehensions on our campuses. We share these apprehensions. As college and university presidents in contact with large numbers of concerned Americans, we must advise you that among our students and faculty members the desire for a prompt end of American military involvement in Southeast Asia is extremely intense. We implore you to consider the incalculable dangers of unprecedented alienation of America's youth to end the war quickly. We urgently request the opportunity to discuss these problems with you directly.

President John W. Chandler
President Samuel F. Babbitt

Columbia SMC Demands University Strike Policy

The invasion of Cambodia by more than 10,000 GIs and the resumption of the bombing is the most severe escalation of the war since Johnson began the bombing in 1964. Nixon has also stepped up his attack on the movement at home through repressive acts against the Panthers and investigation of antiwar leaders.

The mood of the American people, their overwhelming revulsion at the actions ordered in their name, has been reflected in the public response to Nixon's speech. The escalation of the war is being met by escalation against the warmakers. At Penn State this weekend representatives from over twenty colleges on the East Coast voted to begin an extended strike in order to use the full resources of the universities to mobilize the entire nation in protests and actions against Nixon's escalation. They called for a university national strike and set up an apparatus to call an action on Memorial Day, May 30. In New Haven a national strike was called around three demands which have been picked up all over the country: End the war in Vietnam, end repression at home, and campus complicity.

We are striking at Columbia as part of this national effort. Our slogan should be

On strike — Open it up.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WORKSHOPS: 10:00-12:00

1. Political Action: The Hamilton Chapel; Bruce Payne, Instructor in Government
2. Political Action: D Dorm Lounge; Ruth Ann Miller, Socialist Workers' Party Candidate for New York State Controller, Women's Liberation Representative.
3. Letter-writing to Congressmen and Senators: McEwen Lounge; William Rosenfeld, Associate Professor of Arts; Marianne Boggs, Assistant Director of Admissions.
4. Non-violent Action: McEwen Coffeehouse; Members of New Swarthmore.
5. Discussion of Extension of Semester: Minor Hall Lounge; David Miller, Instructor in History; Duffy Petri '72.
6. Information Center: Kirkland Center, McEwen Hall; ext. 324; Budgy Lewis '72; George Newman, Director of Public Relations, Hamilton and Kirkland Colleges.

1:00

President Babbitt speaking outside of McEwen Hall

3:00

Meeting on Clinton Green; President Babbitt; Professor Jaffee, Kirkland College; Professor Richardson, Hamilton College.

7:00

Community Meeting: McEwen Dining Hall

The Hamilton Spectator

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The Publications Board of Hamilton College publishes "The Hamilton Spectator," a newspaper edited by students, 29 times during the academic year. Subscription: $7 per year. Address: Box 83, Hamilton College, Clinton, N.Y., 13323. Letters to the editor must be signed, but names will be withheld upon request.